

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Rec'd: October 26, 1962

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Info

FROM: Buenos Aires

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1189, October 26, Noon

NIACT.

I saw Foreign Minister Muniz and Under Secretary Aja Espil this morning set out Department telegram 1057 and Department Circular telegram 751. Subsequently I am sending Spanish translation of paraphrases these messages in order that there may be no misapprehension in Muniz mind as to how we plan to operate.

Foreign Minister readily agreed that matters of policy should be handled through diplomatic channel but that operational details should be left to competent officials of armed services. In consequence, I am indicating to ALUSNA that for operational messages he is now free to talk direct to opposite numbers in Navy Ministry. I pointed out to Foreign Minister that there are many urgent operational details to be worked out, and he and Aja Espil themselves agreed that they had one subject of that nature in question of refueling Argentine destroyers enroute North.

Minister and Under Secretary brought up in a rather round-about way question of command structure to which Argentine naval units would chop. They clearly indicated their minds were trending along lines suggested Embassy telegram 1185. To this I responded (Department Circular telegram 751) that we felt it important that authority and freedom of action of U.S. command be maintained. I said happily in case of Argentina we had already established precedent of combined operations during last three years of operation unitas. In consequence, I was sure Argentine Navy would

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-2- 1189, October 26, Noon from Buenos Aires

find no difficulty in operating under a joint task force command whose head would be an American admiral.

Foreign Minister told me a meeting of a special security inner Cabinet was scheduled in his office at 11 a.m. immediately following my visit. This security inner Cabinet to be set up by order of President as Commander-in-Chief will consist of Minister of Defense, three Service Secretaries, Minister of Interior, and Foreign Minister, with latter apparently presiding. All policy questions will be determined by this inner group and Service Chiefs will be instructed not to make direct contact with other national armed services on policy matters.

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